Paul Nguyen commenting on FCC docket 25-133

As a licensed amateur radio operator (KD9URM) and GMRS (WRTH783) operator, I contend that the FCC should retain the licensure process and fee schedule as it stands for both radio services, as well as the allocation for Citizen's Band, VHF Marine, FRS, and MURS. These provide a reasonably-accessible breadth of communications services (band, power, encoding/modulation) for the ordinary citizen and radio enthusiast, while also providing sufficient structure of communications for these means to be effective. Most require very little regulatory effort to users

In particular, the untested but fee-based GMRS license (ZA) provides a way for users requiring more power for their operations to access that tier.

More importantly, the amateur radio 3-tier license (HA) that entitles the licensee to more radio band allocation and power, as well as the ability to participate in the testing and licensing process for others mitigates several unwanted behaviors in the radio space: knowledge of how to avoid interference with critical radio spectra such as cell phones, GPS, and military operations. It also ensures that radio operators rise to a baseline level of competence to become useful in emergency response when the community or the government may need standalone communications infrastructure. The amateur radio community also supports innovation in radio technology and communications protocols, which is beneficial to the entire radio communications ecosystem. I have been incredibly grateful that a statewide rural coverage network of Ham radio repeaters exists for emergency communications in backcountry regions of Colorado. Even if the end user were not licensed, the tower operators must be licensed, and this is important in order to assure proper operation of these stations.

If licensing were removed or further simplified, operators lacking technical knowledge would transmit at very high power at a much elevated risk to themselves, other operators, and other equipment.

The fee schedule, at $35 and typically $10-15 administrative fee for each testing session, is not cost-prohibitive compared to the market price of equipment to use these services. The recent revision to bring the GMRS license fee down from $70 to $35 made an appreciable difference in accessibility.

And so I advocate for no change to current policy and regulatory standing for these services.